

**Appl. No. 09/851,066**  
**Amdt. dated May 6, 2005**  
**Reply to final Office action of March 9, 2005**

### **REMARKS/ARGUMENTS**

Applicants respectfully request reconsideration and allowance of the pending claims. If the Examiner feels that a telephone conference would expedite the resolution of this case, he is respectfully requested to contact the undersigned.

Claims 1-22 were rejected under 35 U.S.C § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Agrawal et al. (U.S. Pat. No. 6,687,705 B2), in view of Rucker et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,195,657 B1) as noted in paragraph 4 of the Office action.

Applicants respectfully traverse the rejection of claims 1-22 in view of the cited references for the following reasons:

#### **I. CLAIMS 1-7**

Regarding independent claim 1 and its dependent claims 2-7, they all require in part "using said information with a second classification tool instead of with said first classification tool to classify said record in response to determining that said first classification tool requires a particular item of information that is missing from said information." The cited references fail to teach or suggest these claim limitations.

In the Rucker et al. reference, the user himself (in fact all of the users) selects information objects such as 316 and 318 that may be relevant to his chosen category, for example "new technologies" 308. What causes the user to invoke the "recommendation service" to look for any other related information is not that a particular item of information is "missing" as determined by a first classification tool as claimed in claims 1-7, but simply that the user wants to see if there are any linked information object records in common with the target category that may or may not be relevant to his/her chosen category (new technologies 308). The relevance of the information in the end is determined by the user himself. In Rucker et al., there is no classification tool that determines that there are missing items as required by claims 1-7 given that the users in Rucker et al. are free to determine what information objects they feel may be relevant to their chosen category. The cited Agrawal et al. reference also fails to provide any teaching for the claim limitation discussed above.

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At page 6, of the Office action it was stated that Rucker teaches the second classification tool at col. 6, lines 32-47. Applicants respectfully disagree that Rucker teaches or suggests what is claimed in claims 1-7. What evokes the second classification tool as recited in claim 1 is that a particular item of information is missing from a particular record that is being classified by the first classification tool, the missing information being required by the first classification tool to make the classification. In Rucker et al, this is simply not the case.

It was stated in the Office action that "the missing of a particular item of information" corresponds to "the recommendation system can now allow the user [to] optionally select one or more information objects from those recommended as being of particular interest (col. 6, lines 33-35). This is clearly different from that which is recited in the claims given that in Rucker et al, any "matching categories" (see col. 5, lines 9-19) that are found are not information that was missing that was needed by a first classification tool to make a classification as recited in claims 1-7. The Rucker reference just simply provides information on "common information object records" to a target category, common information object records that are linked to the target category are in no way equitable to an "item of information that is missing from said information" and that is required by a first classification tool. This missing information is information that is used by the first classification tool and therefore already known and required by the first classification tool to make a classification. The missing information is what causes the present invention to use the second classification tool which may not require the missing item of information to make a classification decision of the information record being classified. This clearly does not correspond to "the recommendation system can now allow the user optionally selects one or more information objects from those recommended as being of particular interest" as noted in the Office action.

At page 7 of the Office action, the missing information recited in claims 1-7 is equated to "the user could submit a single information object in a set of such objects" and that the "system then will predict the class by creating a new single target category (col. 11, lines 54-64)." This can not be equated to that which is

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recited in claims 1-7, since specifically that what causes the second classification tool to be used is that the "first classification tool requires a particular item of information that is missing from said information." Here again, what evokes the use of the second classification tool as recited in claims 1-7 is that which is being classified is missing information required by the first classification tool that the first classification tool is using to make a classification. Rucker's "classification tool(s)" does not know before hand the information it wants to use to classify a particular information record, it simply learns there is a linked information object record that may be useful to the target category and provides that information to the target category. Given the above comments, it is believed that claims 1-7 are in condition for allowance.

**II. CLAIMS 8-14**

Regarding claims 8-14, they all recite in part "using said information with a second classification tool instead of with said first classification tool to classify said record in response to determining that said first classification tool requires a particular item of information that is missing from said information." As previously discussed, the cited references taken individually or in combination fail to teach or suggest these claim limitations.

**III. CLAIMS 15-21**

Regarding claims 15-21, they all require in part "using said information with a second classification tool instead of with said first classification tool to classify said record in response to determining that said first classification tool requires a particular item of information that is missing from said information." As previously discussed, the cited references taken individually or in combination fail to teach or suggest these claim limitations.

**IV. CLAIM 22**

Claim 22 recites in part "using said information with a second classification tree instead of with said first classification tree to classify said record when said first classification tree requires a particular item of information that is missing from said information." As previously discussed, the cited references taken individually or in combination fail to teach or suggest these claim limitations.

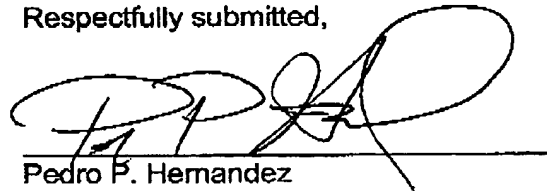
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## **V. CONCLUSION**

For the reasons provided above, claims 1-22 are in condition for allowance. In the course of the foregoing discussions, Applicants may have at times referred to claim limitations in shorthand fashion, or may have focused on a particular claim element. This discussion should not be interpreted to mean that the other limitations can be ignored or dismissed. The claims must be viewed as a whole, and each limitation of the claims must be considered when determining the patentability of the claims. Moreover, it should be understood that there may be other distinctions between the claims and the cited art which have yet to be raised, but which may be raised in the future.

Applicants respectfully request reconsideration and that a timely Notice of Allowance be issued in this case. It is believed that no extensions of time or fees are required, beyond those that may otherwise be provided for in documents accompanying this paper. However, in the event that additional extensions of time are necessary to allow consideration of this paper, such extensions are hereby petitioned under 37 C.F.R. § 1.136(a), and any fees required (including fees for net addition of claims) are hereby authorized to be charged to Hewlett-Packard Development Company's Deposit Account No. 08-2025.

Respectfully submitted,



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